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ERUPTION OF BÓGOSLOV.

The following notes by Capt. C. L. Hooper, of the U. S. Revenue Steamer *Corwin*, kindly contributed by Professor Davidson, were received too late for the BULLETIN of September 30, but have lost nothing by delay. The sketches, plan and measurements, referred to in the extract, are now in the hands of Prof. T. C. Mendenhall, Superintendent of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, who himself visited the island in August, and is putting his observations in order.

Bógoslov is in the Bering Sea, in latitude $53^{\circ} 57'$ N., Long. $168^{\circ} 00'$ W.

EXTRACT OF LETTER FROM CAPTAIN C. L. HOOPER, COMMANDING U. S. STEAMER *Corwin*, TO PROF. GEORGE DAVIDSON, PRESIDENT GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC.

U. S. REV. STR. *Corwin*,
ST. PAUL'S ISLAND, BERING SEA,
July 13, 1891.

PROF. GEORGE DAVIDSON.

My Dear Sir: . . . I spent one-half a day at Bógoslov. Made a landing, got soundings, vertical and horizontal sextant angles, sketches, photos and some of the rock, on July 6th.

The island has changed very much since last reports. The connecting neck of land has sunk, also Sail rock, and there are now two separate islands, with deep water between them. I enclose a sketch showing view, plan, etc., and a memorandum with some measurements, which are approximately correct, or were when they were taken.

The new Bógoslov continues to steam and splutter. It is more in the

nature of a geyser than a volcano. It has no real crater, nor does it discharge lava and cinders. It is white in color, very dense, emits a disagreeable odor, and shoots out as if under pressure, from every crevice of the rock, the whole uniting in a great volume, and rising to an immense height in calm weather. We distinctly saw it like a white cloud at a distance of thirty miles. The top of the island is seldom seen, being always enveloped in this cloud of steam or smoke. The highest point of which I could get a definite altitude was 221 feet, although I several times caught a glimpse of a peak that is much higher, as the smoke was blown away, exposing it to view for an instant.

I send you some samples of the rock which seems soft and easily destroyed. The island is weathering away fast under the continued influence of the weather, the sea and the internal heat. Great masses of rock break away from the top and sides, and fall, breaking into fragments at the foot where the action of the sea grinds them still finer. Wherever the rock is sufficiently cool, the plucky little Murre deposits her huge green-mottled egg upon every projecting point until it resembles a gigantic incubator. As we approached the island within the distance of a mile, the temperature of the sea-water rose from 44° to 48°. I regretted not having self-registering thermometers to get the temperature at the bottom and at different depths.

The old Bógoslov was covered with birds of the sea, and on the beach a herd of sea lions gazed at us with the utmost indifference until a shot from a 20-pounder went over them, and struck the perpendicular side of the island, bringing down many tons of it; when in their wonderfully awkward style, which resembles nothing so much as a "sack-race," they made good time to the water, and all went in in a heap, roaring, tumbling and fighting. The sun came out for about a minute, and I got two sets of altitude for time, which place the islands about six miles west of their position on the chart. Although the sights corresponded very closely, I have not sufficient confidence in them to report it as a fact. . . .

With kindest regards,

I am very truly yours,

(Signed) C. L. HOOPER.